MYSTERY CARTRIDGE

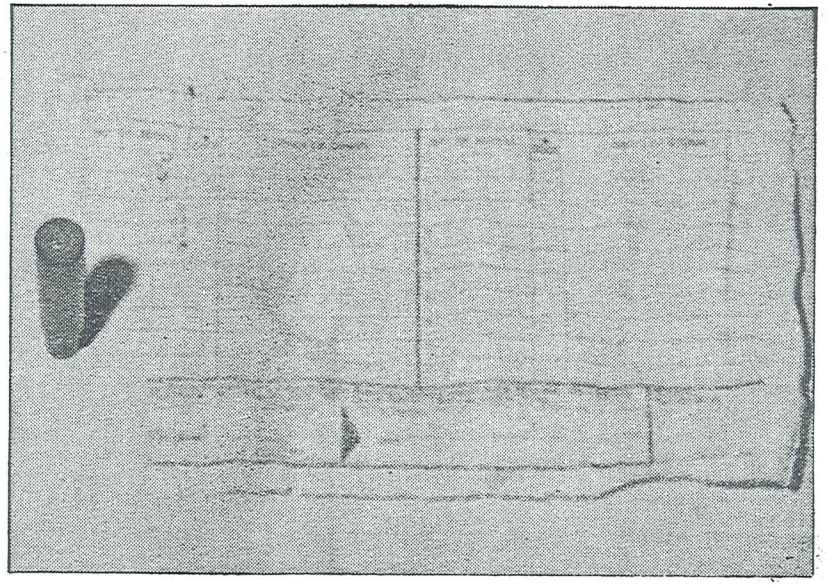
Found at Murder Scene, Given to TV Newsman, Ignored by Officials

IT EXPLAINS MUCH

ASSASSINATION researcher Al Chapman is probing the second mystery cartridge.

TV PERSONALITY Bert Shipp-- mystery cartridge was turned over to him.

TO OUR READERS: Al Chapman, the author of this article, is a minister who became a hard-nosed investigator immediately after President John F Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. He was one of the first of what became legions of private probers who doubted the official findings of the Warren Commission that Lee Harvey Oswald alone was responsible for the death of President Kennedy. A part of a loose-knit group of researchers calling themselves the "Dealey Plaza Irregulars," Chapman has again and again uncovered significant new evidence that indicates the official version was wrong. He has contributed evidence appearing in a number of best-selling books and has been repeatedly recognized on a national level. In this article, written exclusive-



THE MYSTERY 30.6 shell and the postal receipt in which it was wrapped.

ly for TATTLER, Chapman reveals for the first time the finding of a second cartridge at the assassination site, a cartridge that could not have been fired from the rifle the Warren Commission claim Oswald used to kill Kennedy and wound Gov. Connally.— The Editors.

By AL CHAPMAN

Special to the National Tattler

A mystery cartridge ... one that would not fit the weapon the Warren Commission says was used to kill President John F. Kennedy ... turned up just after the assassination.

It was never officially and seriously checked out by those responsible for seeking the answer to the President's death on the streets of Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

During the bustle and chaos that followed during the first days after Kennedy was shot by one or more snipers, the throngs of newsmen and lawmen that converged on Dallas were concerned with the swearing in of Lyndon Johnson, the arrest of Lee Harvey Oswald, his murder by Jack Ruby.

The second cartridge was ignored.

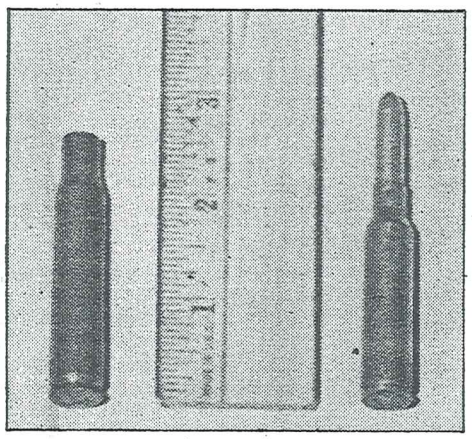
NOT LONG AGO, when I learned of the existence of the second cartridge from soneone who had been close to Oswald, I began investigating it.

What I learned firmly convinced me that cartridge should be investigated further by officials with the authority and the power to get at the full truth.

The Warren Commission says the bullets that killed President Kennedy and wounded Gov. John Connally were fired by Oswald from a sixth floor window in the Texas School Book Depository Building.

They found Oswald's rifle, a 6.5 caliber weapon, inside a window on the sixth floor and determined it to be the death weapon.

The second cartridge, which still remains a mystery, is a 30.6 caliber



SPENT SHELL, 30.6 caliber, at left was found outside Book Depository. Such a shell could not have been fired from a 6.5 caliber (bullet at right) weapon such as the Manlicher Carcano owned by Lee Harvey Oswald.

THE CARTRIDGE ended up in the hands of Bert Shipp, a newsman at the time for the ABC television station in Dallas, WFAA-TV — Channel 8, which ironically is owned by the wealthy family for which Dealey Plaza, where Kennedy was killed, is named.

A postman walked up to a WFAA cameraman on the street and handed him the cartridge. It was wrapped in a postral receipt.

"Give this to Bert Shipp," the postman said. "He will know what to do with it." Shipp was a well-known television personality and perhaps that's why the postman thought of him.

"Where did you get it?" the cameraman asked.

"I found it in bushes outside the School Book Depository Building," said the postman.

This was about noon, Nov. 23, 1963 — the day after Kennedy was killed, the day before Oswald's lips were silenced forever by Jack Ruby's gun.

Shipp at first didn't take it seriously.

"I thought somebody was playing a little joke on me," Shipp told me in a tape-recorded interview.

THE CARTRIDGE shell lay on Shipp's desk for months. Many people walking in and out of the television newsroom had a look at it, perhaps speculated on it.

Some law enforcement people heard about and had a look at the shell.

Finally, a member of the Dallas Police Department went by the television station and picked up the cartridge. The police kept the cartridge for awhile and then Patrolman George Butler gave it back to Shipp, who still has it.

Police told Shipp that as far as they were concerned, he had one of the shells that had come out of Oswald's rifle. It must have flicked out the sixth floor window and landed in the bushes below.

The only problem with that is there is no logical way the shell could have flicked out the window. And there were no bushes below the window — only cement.

If the postman indeed found the shell in the grass or bushes, it had to have been at another area — most probably the grassy knoll where many sources report hearing shots and seeing puffs of smoke when Kennedy was shot — reports brushed aside by the investigation's officials.

ENGRAVED ON THE mystery bullet is "FA 41." I checked this out and found this meant the bullet was manufactured in 1941 at Frankfort Arsenel in Illinois. It was part of 1941 military ammunition.

Firearms experts will tell you such a bullet manufactured during World War II would be just as potent two decades later and could have been fired at the President.

A corner was torn off the postal receipt in which the cartridge was wrapped. That corner would have shown the date and month of the receipt.

The receipt was blank except for a telephone number. Checking out the telephone number, I found that in 1963, it was the number of a North Dallas lounge that, according to police sources, was a hangout for underworld figures.

At the time I interviewed Shipp, the number belonged to a loading ramp at Dallas Love Field.

I have never been able to locate the postman who found the shell. It could have been one of many postmen who served the various office buildings in the area.

WHAT THE authorities should do — if an official reopening of the assassination is conducted — is to locate the missing person.

The information he could provide might be a vital link in determining the truth about the President's death more than 10 years later.